

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gérald DELGORGUE et al.)
Appln. No. : 10/023,987) Group Art Unit 3728
Filed : December 21, 2001) Examiner Not Yet Known
For : BOOT)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The following documents were cited in a search report in the French priority application upon which the instant application is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

For compliance with the "concise explanation" requirement set forth in 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3), consistent with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy, Applicants describe below any comments relating to pertinent portions of the respective documents, where such comments appear in the search report.

European Patent Publication No. 0 753 268 (SHIMANO), published on January 15, 1997, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document).

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document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of EP '268 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,950,335 (OKAJIMA), issued on September 14, 1999, is cited as a family member document of EP '268.

European Patent Publication No. 0 754 413 (SKIS ROSSIGNOL), published on January 22, 1997, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of EP '413268 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,732,483 (CAGLIARI), issued on March 31, 1998, is cited as a family member document of EP '413.

International Patent Publication No. WO 94/04051 (BELL et al.), published on March 3, 1994, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of WO '051 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,317,820 (BELL et al.), issued on June 7, 1994, is cited as a family member document of WO '051.

U.S. Patent No. 5,379,530 (BELL et al.), issued on January 10, 1995, is also cited as a family member document of WO '051.

British Patent No. 393,508 (ENTRAYGUES), granted on June 8, 1933, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of GB '508 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,946,827 (OKAJIMA), issued on September 7, 1999, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '827 is cited as being pertinent.

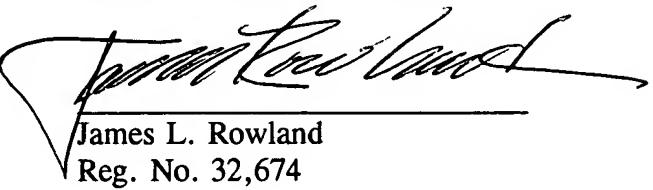
In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP 609, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is enclosed herewith. Further, each is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialled form to Applicants.

In addition to the documents cited above, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/023,865 (DELGORGUE), filed on December 21, 2001, a copy of which is enclosed.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Gérald DELGORGUE et al.


James L. Rowland
Reg. No. 32,674

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191

703-716-1191 (telephone)
703-716-1180 (fax)